



IRONHORSEMAN

NTC Special

16 Oct 2008

Volume 1, Issue 3

Ironhorse Brigade arrives for peaceful integration with the Ghazi Province

By: Cpl. Shejal Pulivarti

Ironhorse Soldiers completed their movement into the Ghazi Province with some resistance from local insurgent forces yesterday.

Approximately 4,500 troopers deployed to their various forward operating bases. The brigade-sized convoy consisted of many different tactical vehicles to include HUMVEE trucks, Tanks, Bradleys, M117 Armored Security Vehicles and Large Medium Tactical Vehicles.

Prior to the brigade's tactical road march, the route clearance teams cleared the roads for the safety of the brigade and the citizens. During their mission, they found at least five improvised explosive devices.

En route, the nine battalion-convoy, faced some opposition such as a vehicle-born IED and a drive-by shooting but maintained operability as no damage to equipment or any serious injury to personnel. They also eliminated a serious hostile threat by

engaging and overcoming six insurgents from Al Qaeda.

"The movement was successful because of the security already in place by the Bronco Brigade and the Iraqi Security Forces," said Boulder, Co. native Maj. Geoffrey Norman, executive officer for the Ironhorse Brigade.

The brigade will transfer authority of the area from the 3rd BCT, 52nd Infantry Division.

The Soldiers will be focused on gaining a positive relationship with the local civilians and improving essential services for the people while working through, with and by the Iraqis.

Having arrived, the Ironhorse Brigade will join together with the Iraqi forces and the people of the Ghazi Province to ensure their security and improve their quality of life, said Col. Tobin Green, brigade commander.



Inside this issue:

IRONHORSE get boots on ground	1
First things First: Pre-PMCS	1
Safety First	2
Sudoku	3
Command Messages	3

First things First

By: Spc. Phillip Turner



Left: An Ironhorse Soldier inspects the top exterior of his M113 Armored Personnel Carrier during PMCS at NTC.

Right: Portsmouth, Va. Native Spc. Mitchell Page, mechanic for HHC, 115th BSB inspects the 'troop seats' on an LMTV for serviceability during the draw at NTC.



Division, Brigade safety coordinators ensure combat power

By: Spc. Phillip Turner



"Everything out here is a training event or an opportunity to train. We have to make sure everyone knows what right looks like and that they are applying these standards across the board, and as long as we as a brigade continue to do these things we will be successful," added Bell.



For the first three days of their arrival at the National Training Center (NTC) located at Fort Irwin, Calif., Troops of the 'Ironhorse' Brigade have conducted the largest single day vehicle draw in the history of NTC, according to the Ironhorse S-4, Maj. Jim Outland, 1st Brigade supply officer, who is a native of Bridgeton N.J.

Ensuring the smoothness and safety of this operation has been two men, Harker Heights, Texas native, Dale Smith, safety director for the 1st Cavalry Division, and 1st Brigade Safety and Occupational Health Specialist, Stephen W. Bell, who is a native of Nolanville, Texas. However, overseeing the rail-head operations and convoy movements of a large vehicle draw is just a fraction of the service these two retired servicemembers and their counterparts provide.

"Our primary goal is training," said Bell. "Generally speaking there is a certain level of inexperience among the junior Soldiers and NCOs we have out here, it is a matter of training. Its all about getting on the ground and making sure they understand what the standards are, because once they are shown and taught the standards there is a steady climb of improvement amongst the brigade," he added.

"We gather all the injury data from the medics, we make stops at all the forward operating bases in the box, we are overseeing everything out here not just convoy movements," said Smith. "We are observing trends, and producing standards to prevent a loss of combat power."

The simplest example of just how meticulous Smith and Bell are, is blank adapters says Bell. These are simple safety devices, however used

the wrong way can become a safety hazard, which can cause serious malfunction to the weapon or injury to the personnel operating that weapon.

"The yellow adapters say for M-4 only, if you unscrew it and look at the side there is a little hole that is double the size on an M-4 as it is on an M-16, Bell said. "An M-16, because it has a longer barrel and a longer gas tube, requires more pressure in the barrel off of the blank to make the bolt function, the M-4 significantly less. So, I noticed a lot of soldiers running around with these red blank adapters on an M-4. What's going to happen if they fire these repeatedly with blanks is the potential to blow the adapter completely off and injury somebody with it. The other potential is to damage the gas tube on the M-4, so that it doesn't work, it's going to deadline a weapon because you are using the wrong blank adapter for it," he added.

"The Chain of command wasn't aware of this, so by informing them of the hazards and educating them upfront, we may save the Army quite a bit of money in damaged weapons, and prevent the injury of a Soldier," Bell added.

All things considered Smith and Bell have seen a higher standard of safety practices during this rotation at NTC. The brigade has had no major damage to equipment or serious personnel injuries during the brigade's record setting vehicle draw and rail-head movement.

"If we see something wrong it's our job to



Nolanville, Tx. Native Steve Bell, safety officer for the brigade guides a Soldier on how to tow a broken-down humvee during vehicle draw at NTC.

fix it," said Bell. "But we are not always around-it starts within the units, the Chain of Command from E-1 all the way up to Sergeant Major, not only do they need to implement the standards we are pushing down through the brigades, but they need to keep a look out for hazards of their own. The better we all become at identifying safety hazards the easier my job becomes, and the better prepared our troops are, because we haven't had a loss in combat power due to injury or an accident," added Bell.

Smith says that as a safety officer it's all about being the commanders' eyes and ears, observing the trends in injuries and accidents to inform the chain of command on how to mitigate troop and equipment losses in a deployed or garrison environment.

"Everything out here is a training event or an opportunity to train." We have to make sure everyone knows what right looks like and that they are applying these standards across the board, and as long as we as a brigade continue to do these things we will be successful," added Bell.

	4		6	8				
	1							9
		7		9			2	1
9	5	3			4			
			5		8			
			9			7	5	2
7	8			2		6		
3							1	
				4	7		9	

Check next issue for answers

The **Ironhorseman** is a publication of the 1st Brigade Combat Team. The staff of the Ironhorse Public Affairs Office is dedicated to making news around the brigade available to all Soldiers.

Maj. Brian Carlin– OIC

Cpl. Shejal Pulivarti- NCOIC

Spc. Phillip Turner– Staff Writer

If you have any suggestions or submissions, please contact Cpl. Shejal Pulivarti located at the Brigade ALOC or at shejal.pulivarti@us.army.mil

Thought for the day

“This is the beginning of a new day. I have this day to use as I will. I can waste it or use it for good, but what I do today is important, because I am exchanging a day of my life for it! When tomorrow comes this day will be gone forever, leaving in its place something I have traded for it. I want it to be for gain, and not for loss; good and not evil; success, and not failure; in order that I shall not regret the price I have paid for it. For yesterday has gone. Tomorrow may never come. There is only the miracle of this moment.”

Author Unknown